GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3727
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
KILLINGS OF DALITS
BALIRAM

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of sudden spurt in the incidents of killings of dalits in various States of the country in past six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes plan to conduct inquiry in these cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard and have dispatched or propose to dispatch Central Team to take stock of the situation;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and
(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a)to(b) As per information given by the National Crime Records Bureau, there has been nospurt in the incidence of killings of SCs & STs in the country in the past six months. Average number of killings per month was 49 during 1999 and 29 during the period January-June 2000.

(c)&(d) The National Commission for SCs & STs has informed that the Commission hasvisited Kambalapalli village, District-Kolar, Karnataka on 16.3.2000 to enquire into the incident of burning of seven Dalits on 11.3.2000 and Hasanpur/Balughat villages in Lakhisarai District and Miapur village in Aurangabad district in Bihar on 2.7.2000and 3.7.2000. After the visit, the Commission issued necessary instructions to the District and State level officers to take necessary action immediately to prevent such heinous crime against the members of Scheduled Castes and also under the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

(e)&(g) As per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, `Police` and `PublicOrder` are State subjects and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments, fromtime to time, to give focussed attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crimes against the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable sections of the society.